

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET**  
**06-SPPE-2**DATE **MAY 22 2006**FILED **MAY 23 2006**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT**  
**APPLICATION FOR SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION (06-SPPE-2)**  
**EL CENTRO UNIT 3 REPOWER**

On May 19, 2006, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) filed an application for a Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE). The IID is seeking an exemption from the California Energy Commission's licensing requirements. If an exemption is granted, the applicant would need to secure the appropriate licenses and permits for the project from various local, state and federal agencies.

IID proposes to replace an existing steam-generating unit within the site of the existing El Centro Generating Station (ECGS) located at 485 East Villa Avenue, in El Centro, Imperial County, California. The El Centro Unit 3 Repower Project would be owned and operated by IID. The Unit 3 repower will continue to serve the growing electrical load demands of the region.

The Unit 3 repower will replace an existing boiler with a General Electric Frame 7EA dry low NO<sub>x</sub> combustion turbine generator and heat recovery steam generator to supply steam to the existing steam turbine generator. The generator output from the Unit 3 repower will be stepped-up to transmission system voltage and interconnected to the existing IID El Centro Switching Station also located within the ECGS property. Most of the existing Unit 3 plant systems will continue to be used with only minor modifications. The Unit 3 repower will increase the existing Unit 3 generating capacity by 84 MW from 44 MW to 128 MW.

The new combustion turbine generator step-up transformer will interconnect with the existing 92-kV portion of the El Centro Switching Station via an overhead line approximately 2,350 feet long and 50 to 80 feet high. The interconnection facilities are entirely within the existing El Centro Switching Station and adjacent areas within the ECGS property.

The Unit 3 repower will interconnect to the existing Southern California Gas Company high pressure gas metering station located on the existing ECGS property. The connection will occur via two existing pipelines running south from the Gas Company's Niland regulating station to the ECGS. Minor modifications at the ECGS site will be performed to support the proposed project including changes to the metering station for increasing the flow of high-pressure gas through the station serving the new Unit 3 combustion turbine.

Annual water consumption for the Unit 3 repower is expected to be approximately 1,125 acre-feet. The existing ECGS uses raw water from IID's Dogwood surface canal Gate 54B for cooling tower make-up. An existing demineralization system treats the raw water to provide high quality make-up water. These existing systems will be used to meet the expected water requirements for the proposed project. IID also proposes to eliminate the discharge from the entire ECGS and dispose of the wastewater to a deep injection well system, consisting of two Class I non-hazardous wastewater deep injection wells approximately 2,000 feet below ground surface. These wells will be located on the ECGS property.

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing, and ultimately approving or denying, all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's SPPE process allows projects between 50 and 100 MW to proceed with local approval rather than requiring an Energy Commission license. An exemption from this licensing process is available if the Energy Commission finds that the project would not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration that examines public health and safety, and environmental impacts of the proposed project including all related facilities such as electric transmission lines, natural gas and water pipelines.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Over the next few months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the exemption request should be approved and under what set of conditions. These workshops provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions and provide input about the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings, normally 14 days, but in no case later than 10 days prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Dora Gomez, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-1608 or by email at [dgomez@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:dgomez@energy.state.ca.us).

If you would like information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review process for the proposed project, please contact Ms. Margret Kim, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228.

Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Mary Dyas, the Energy Commission's Project Manager at (916) 651-8891 or by e-mail to [mdyas@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mdyas@energy.state.ca.us). The status of the project, copies of notices, the SPPE application and other relevant documents will be placed on the Energy Commission's web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/elcentro>.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that have requested to be placed on the mailing list during pre-filing and to property owners located adjacent to the project site or any of the project-related facilities. By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notice when documents related to the project's review are available. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/html/listservers.html>. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Dora Gomez, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-1608 or by email at [dgomez@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:dgomez@energy.state.ca.us).

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A copy of the SPPE application document is available for public inspection at the:

El Centro Public Library  
539 State Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Calipatria Branch Library  
225 W. Main  
Calipatria, CA 92233

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Eureka. In addition, copies have been distributed to those public agencies that would retain jurisdiction if an exemption is granted by the Energy Commission.

DATE: 5/22/06

  
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ROGER E. JOHNSON, Manager  
Energy Facilities Siting & Compliance Office

Mailed to the El Centro Unit 3 Repower project mailing lists.

**Please send me a copy (paper or CD) of the IID Energy El Centro Unit 3 Repower Application for Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE).**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City/State/Zip:**

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California Energy Commission  
**Attention:** Dora Gomez  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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